

CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

Committee on Science and the Arts

OF THE

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

OF THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE MECHANIC ART.

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PHILADELPHIA :

FRANKLIN INSTITUTE, 15 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET.

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CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS

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OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

OF THE STATE OF PENN'A FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE MECHANIC ARTS.

RESOLUTIONS

CONSTITUTING THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

*Adopted by the Franklin Institute at the Annual Meeting,
held January 16, 1834.*

I. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Inventions, heretofore appointed by the Board of Managers, shall be extended under the title of the "Committee on Science and the Arts," and that the number composing said committee shall hereafter be unlimited.

II. *Resolved*, That the "Committee on Science and the Arts" shall consist of such members of the Institute as shall voluntarily enroll their names as members thereof, in a book to be prepared for the purpose, and who will, by enrolling their names, pledge themselves to perform such duties, to be hereinafter described, as

may devolve upon them, and to sustain, by their labors, the scientific character of the Institute.

1. It shall be the duty of that Committee to hold periodical meetings at the Hall of the Institute, at such times as they may deem expedient, to enact rules for their own regulation, and to appoint a member to preside over their deliberations.

2. It shall be the duty of said Committee to examine, either as a body, or by sub-committees, all inventions that may be submitted, and to make detailed, descriptive reports thereon, giving their opinion with candor and impartiality on the inventions submitted, in the manner now practiced by the Committee on Inventions.

3. It shall be the duty of that Committee to conduct, by sub-committee, or otherwise, such scientific investigations as may be deemed worthy of consideration, and to publish the results in the Journal of the Institute.

4. It shall be the duty of that Committee, by sub-committee, or otherwise, to inquire and report into the state of the arts generally, or into the state of any branch thereof, when called upon to do so, in order to disseminate useful practical information, or historical facts, in relation thereto.

5. To that Committee shall be confided, in general, the scientific duties which devolve upon the institution, tending to mutual instruction, and to the dissemination of knowledge, and which are not specially intrusted by the constitution to the officers of the Institute.

III. *Resolved*, That the said Committee shall be governed in the expenditure of money by the same rules as govern all other standing committees, and it shall not be competent for them to contract any debts, until they shall have been authorized by an appropriation made by the Board of Managers, upon the requisition of the Committee.

IV. *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the "Committee on Science and the Arts," to report the proceedings of the Committee to the Board of Managers, at least three weeks previous to each quarterly meeting of the Institute, in order that the information therein contained may be included in the quarterly report; and to report to the Institute whenever directed so to do.

V. *Resolved*, That the Chairman of the Committee shall be elected annually, at the first meeting after the annual meeting of the Institute.

The following amendment to the By-Laws of the Institute, affecting the Committee on Science and the Arts, was adopted at the stated meeting, held Wednesday, September 15, 1886, viz.:—

Article XII.—Of Committees.

SEC. 2. There shall be a Committee on Science and the Arts, which shall consist of forty-five (45) members of the Institute, to be elected as hereinafter prescribed,

who shall pledge themselves, by their acceptance of membership, to perform such duties as may devolve upon them and to sustain by their labors the scientific character of the Institute.

The Committee shall, within one month after the annual election of the Institute in each year, hold a meeting, at which they shall elect a Chairman. They may adopt rules for their government not inconsistent with the Charter and By-Laws of the Institute.

Special Committees to examine any subject shall be appointed by the Chairman, and shall make their reports in writing signed by the members thereof. A quorum for final action upon a report shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) members, and when such report is adopted, it shall be accepted as the decision of the Institute.

It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Committee to submit at the stated meetings of the Institute, such action of the Committee as he may deem of interest to the Institute.

Applications for the examination of any subject shall be made to the Chairman of the Committee, either by the Institute, or by the Secretary, who shall receive such applications from inventors and others.

The members of the Committee shall be nominated at the stated meeting of the Institute in December, and shall be elected for three (3) years at the annual election—each year fifteen (15)—except that at the annual election in 1887, there shall be elected forty-five (45),

who shall draw lots for terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3) years respectively.

The Committee shall report all vacancies occurring in their body, whether by neglect of duty or otherwise, to the stated meeting of the Institute next ensuing, at which such vacancies shall be filled.

The meetings of the Committee shall be open to all members of the Institute.

REGULATIONS,

As adopted and in force April 6, 1887.

MEETINGS.

The Committee shall hold stated meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, at 8 o'clock, P. M. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, and shall be called by him upon the written request of five members of the Committee. At all meetings of the Committee nine members shall constitute a quorum, except that a quorum for final action upon a report, shall consist of not less than fifteen members.

THE CHAIRMAN.

Nominations for Chairman shall be made at the stated meeting of the Committee in February, and the election shall be by ballot at the same meeting, and the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. The Chairman shall hold his office until his successor shall be installed. He shall not be eligible for re-election for the period of one year after his term of office shall have expired.

He shall take the chair at the hour appointed; preserve order and decorum in debate, suppress all personal reflections, and confine the members to the question under discussion. When two or more members rise at the same time, he shall designate the one entitled to the floor.

He shall decide all questions of order. An appeal from his decision to the Committee, cannot be made by less than two members. He may, however, submit questions of order to the Committee for their decision.

On questions of order, there shall be no debate, except on an appeal from the decision of the Chairman, or on a reference of a question by him to the Committee. On questions of order, no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Committee; on other questions, a member may speak twice, but not oftener without leave.

The Chairman shall appoint the members of all sub-committees, unless otherwise ordered; and whenever he shall ascertain that any member of a sub-committee is absent, or unable, or unwilling, to discharge the duties assigned to such member, the Chairman is empowered, if deemed expedient, to substitute another member in his place.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Calling the roll.
2. Reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting.
3. Reading of correspondence.
4. Reports on applications, and consideration thereof.
5. Reports of sub-committees.
6. Consideration of reports for final action.
7. Deferred business.
8. New business.
9. Excuses for non-attendance.
10. Calling the roll.
11. Adjournment.

ON INVESTIGATIONS.

1st. Every subject submitted to the Committee for investigation, before it can be entertained, shall be accompanied by a written request, addressed to the Committee, from the party desiring such investigation; and any article which is the subject of a patent must be accompanied with a copy of the specification and drawings of the letters-patent.

2d. It shall be competent for the Committee at all times, by vote of a majority of the members present, to investigate by sub-committee, any subject which shall be presented on the motion of a member.

3d. No inventor, or other person interested in the issue of an investigation, excepting members of this Committee, shall be present when the merits of the subject, or of the invention which he represents, shall be under discussion, except at the special invitation of the sub-committee charged with the investigation; but after the report of the sub-committee has passed first reading, he may examine it, on application to the Secretary, and may make any explanations or objections, in writing, addressed to the Chairman of the general Committee; provided, such explanations or objections shall be submitted within one month after the report of the sub-committee shall have been read before a stated meeting of the general Committee.

No subject, or invention, can be withdrawn, after it has been assigned to a sub-committee for investigation, without the consent of the general Committee.

4th. There shall be a special committee styled the "Committee on Preliminary Examination," to be appointed by the Chairman, to which all applications for investigations, addressed to the Committee shall first be referred. It shall be the duty of the "Committee on Preliminary Examination," to pass judgment on the character of applications referred to them, and, at each stated meeting, to submit a report of their work, recommending as worthy of investigation such applications as in their judgment are meritorious, and unfavorably, such as they may judge to be unimportant. The members of this special committee shall be known only to the Chairman and Secretary.

5th. The reports of all sub-committees may be discussed at the same meeting at which they are presented, but shall be laid over for final action until the next stated meeting of the general Committee, except where a written request is made by the parties interested, when they may be taken up on the vote of three-fourths of the members present, and finally disposed of.

All members of sub-committees making a report, whether members of the general Committee or not, shall have the right to the floor in the discussion of the said report, and the Secretary shall state the fact on the notices of appointment of members of sub-committees, and shall notify such of the members of sub-committees as may not be members of the general Committee, of the meetings at which their reports will be considered.

6th. After a report has been finally acted on in the general Committee, it shall not be reconsidered, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; and a motion for reconsideration must be made at least one stated meeting prior to its being acted on, by a member who voted with the majority on the final disposition of such report; notice of such intended motion of reconsideration to be given in writing to the Secretary. After a report has been finally acted on in the general Committee, a second investigation of the same subject-matter shall not be ordered, except on the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

7th. Sub-committees, in preparing their reports, shall accompany them with drawings or diagrams, whenever these will serve to illustrate the subject of their reports; and they shall be authorized, whenever they shall think it necessary, to require inventors, or other persons interested in the investigation, to furnish such drawings or diagrams as a condition of their making such investigations and reports.

Reports on all subjects must be signed by a majority of those members of the sub-committee who have participated in the investigations. Minority reports may be received and considered by a vote of the majority of the members present. When a report is ordered to be published, it shall have attached to it the names of the Chairman and Secretary, and the subscribing members of the sub-committee.

8th. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to furnish the applicant one copy of the report of the general

Committee within ten days after such report shall have been finally adopted, except in cases where the Committee has recommended the award of a medal, when the copy shall be withheld until the Committee has taken action thereon.

9th. When any sub-committee deem the invention upon which they report, worthy an award of the "John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal," or the "Elliott Cresson Medal," they shall append to their report a recommendation to that effect.

10th. Every inventor or other person who may submit a subject to the Committee for investigation, shall be furnished by the Secretary with a copy of the circular and rules relating to the award of medals and premiums, and the rules and regulations of the Committee governing all investigations.

11th. No report shall be made on any invention or discovery, the process or ingredients of which are not made known to the Committee, unless otherwise ordered by a vote of three-fourths of the members present.

12th. These regulations may be altered in the following manner. Propositions for amendment shall be made at a stated meeting in writing. They may be considered when presented, but shall be acted upon at the next stated meeting, and shall be considered adopted when agreed to by two-thirds of the members present. In all cases, notice of proposed amendments shall be given by publication on card notices.

THE JOHN SCOTT LEGACY PREMIUM AND MEDAL.

The following particulars are published for the information of the ingenious :

John Scott, chemist, late of Edinburgh, by his will, made in the year 1816, bequeathed the sum of Four Thousand Dollars in the funded three per cent. stock of the United States, to the Corporation of the City of Philadelphia, directing that the interest and dividend to become receivable thereon, should be laid out in premiums, to be distributed among ingenious men and women who make useful inventions, but no such premium to exceed twenty dollars, and that therewith shall be given a copper medal with this inscription :

“TO THE MOST DESERVING.”

The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, by an ordinance passed February 27, 1834, vested the award of the aforesaid premiums and medals in the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts.

The Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, by an act passed and approved June 30, 1869, created a “Board of Directors of City Trusts,” to whom was referred the charge or administration of all estates dedicated to charitable uses.

The control of the John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal was (by the act of 1869) transferred to the Board of Directors of City Trusts.

This Board by a resolution, passed April 12, 1882, referred the matter, with instructions, to their Committee on Wills' Hospital and Minor Trusts.

The Committee on Wills' Hospital and Minor Trusts, by a resolution passed April 12, 1882, resolved that "they will favorably receive the names of any persons whom the Franklin Institute may from time to time report to the Committee on Minor Trusts as worthy of receiving the John Scott Legacy Medal and Premium."

The Franklin Institute by a resolution, passed June 21, 1882, accepted the above, and referred the duty of making examinations, etc., to the Committee on Science and the Arts.

That Committee has adopted the following rules in regard to recommendations of the award of the John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal :

1st. A recommendation for an award of the premium and medal shall only be made by the Committee on Science and the Arts, on a report of a sub-committee, which shall have been appointed to examine such invention.

2d. The invention or improvement to be examined, shall be accompanied by a clear description and drawings of the same, together with a model, if required, and also a statement of the particulars of the inventor's claim to originality ; such description, drawings and model to become the property of the Franklin Institute.

3d. When the invention is a composition of matter, specimens of the ingredients and of the compound sufficient for the purpose of experiments, and to preserve in the cabinet of the Franklin Institute, shall be furnished by the inventor.

4th. Upon the adoption, by the Committee on Science and the Arts, of a report setting forth that an invention or improvement is worthy of an award of the premium and medal, publication shall be made three times in the Journal of the Franklin Institute, stating that at the expiration of three months from the date of the first publication, the Committee on Science and the Arts will recommend to the Committee on Minor Trusts of the Board of City Trusts, the award of the said premium and medal to the inventor, unless within that time satisfactory evidence shall have been submitted to the Secretary of the Franklin Institute, of the want of originality of the supposed invention or improvement.

5th. All applications for the John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal must be made to the Secretary of the Institute, by whom the applications and accompanying descriptions, drawings, etc., shall be laid before the Committee on Science and the Arts, and by whom all publications ordered by said Committee, in relation to said premiums and medals shall be made.

THE ELLIOTT CRESSON MEDAL.

ABSTRACTS FROM THE DEED OF TRUST.

Under date of February 18, 1848, Elliott Cresson, Esq., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, conveyed to Trustees, for the Franklin Institute, One Thousand Dollars of the six per cent. convertible loan of the President, Managers and Company of the Schuylkill Navigation Company—to hold the said sum and the interest to accrue thereon, for the following use and purposes :

First.—The Trustees to keep the principal invested as it now is, until it is reimbursed by the said Company, and immediately after such reimbursement, to re-invest the said principal of One Thousand Dollars in such securities, bearing interest, as may by law be designated for the investment of trust funds. And from time to time, as the said principal sum may be reimbursed, re-invest the same in like manner.

Second.—To cause suitable dies to be prepared for striking the gold medal, out of the first sufficient moneys received for interest on the said sum of One Thousand Dollars. The dies to bear the following devices and inscriptions: The obverse—a medallion likeness of the said Elliott Cresson, with inscription around the margin, “Elliott Cresson Medal, A.D. 1848.” Reverse—around the margin, “Awarded by the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania.” The centre to be filled

by engraving the name of the party to whom awarded and the year in which the award may be made.

Third.—After the said dies have been prepared, and paid for out of the money received for interest, the said trustees to cause to be struck from time to time, such number of gold medals as the interest received will pay for, and deliver the same to the Treasurer of the Franklin Institute, to be by him delivered to such persons or parties as the said Franklin Institute, by any rule or regulation they may adopt, may have awarded the same to. The said awards, however, to be in all instances made either for some discovery in the arts and sciences, or for the invention or improvement of some useful machine, or for some new process, or combination of materials in manufactures, or for ingenuity, skill, or perfection in workmanship.

May 17, 1849—On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Science and the Arts be authorized to award the Elliott Cresson Medal to such inventions and manufactures as shall, in their opinion, deserve it, subject to the rules which now govern the award of the John Scott Legacy Premium and Medal.



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